

# Grimms' Fairy Tales — Key Vocabulary

by Jacob Grimm

48 key English words, graded A2–C2 — each with a simple definition and an example. Learn them before you read, or review them after.

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## A2 words (10)

**absence** /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

*“he was surprised by the absence of any explanation”*

**accident** /'æksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

*“winning the lottery was a happy accident”*

**accuse** /ə'kjuz/

A2

bring an accusation against

*“The neighbors accused the man of spousal abuse”*

**acknowledge** /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

declare to be true or admit the existence or reality or truth of

*“He admitted his errors”*

**admit** /əd'mɪt/

A2

declare to be true or admit the existence or reality or truth of

*“He admitted his errors”*

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/

A2

choose and follow

*“She followed the feminist movement”*

**affair** /ə'feɪ/

A2

a vaguely specified concern

*“several matters to attend to”*

**afraid** /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

*“afraid even to turn his head”*

**aid** /eɪd/

a resource

*“visual aids in teaching”*

A2

**alive** /ə'laɪv/

possessing life

*“the happiest person alive”*

A2

## **B1 words** (10)

**accidentally** /,æksə'denəli/

without advance planning

*“they met accidentally”*

B1

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

put in effect

*“carry out a task”*

B1

**accordingly** /ə'kɔːrdɪŋli/

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

*“consequently, he didn't do it”*

B1

**advance** /əd'væns/

a movement forward

*“he listened for the progress of the troops”*

B1

**advantage** /æd'væntɪdʒ/

the quality of having a superior or more favorable position

*“the experience gave him the advantage over me”*

B1

**adventure** /əd'ventʃər/

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

*“When you buy these stocks you are gambling”*

B1

**ADVENTURES** /æd'ventʃərz/

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

*“When you buy these stocks you are gambling”*

B1

**affect** /ə'fekt/

the conscious subjective aspect of feeling or emotion

*“Will the new rules affect me?”*

B1

**afternoon** /ˌæftərˈnuːn/

B1

the part of the day between noon and evening

*“he spent a quiet afternoon in the park”*

**aged** /ˈeɪdʒɪd/

B1

people who are old collectively

*“special arrangements were available for the aged”*

## B2 words (10)

**abide** /əˈbaɪd/

B2

dwelt

*“You can stay with me while you are in town”*

**abode** /əˈboʊd/

B2

any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

*“a person can have several residences”*

**abundance** /əˈbʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

*“an age of abundance”*

**accord** /əˈkɔːrd/

B2

harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters

*“the two parties were in agreement”*

**acquaintance** /əkˈweɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

*“I have trouble remembering the names of all my acquaintances”*

**adrift** /əˈdrɪft/

B2

aimlessly drifting

*“after the storm the boats were adrift”*

**afar** /əˈfɑːr/

B2

(old-fashioned) at or from or to a great distance

*“we traveled afar”*

**afterwards** /ˈæftərwɜːdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

*“he apologized subsequently”*

**alas** /ə'læs/

B2

a flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism

*"the alae of the nose"*

**alight** /ə'laɪt/

B2

to come to rest, settle

*"Misfortune lighted upon him"*

### C1 words (9)

**amicably** /'æmɪkəbli/

C1

in an amicable manner

*"they separated amicably"*

**amiss** /ə'mɪs/

C1

not functioning properly

*"something is amiss"*

**anoint** /ə'nɔɪnt/

C1

choose by or as if by divine intervention

*"She was anointed the head of the Christian fundamentalist group"*

**ashen** /'æʃən/

C1

anemic looking from illness or emotion

*"a face turned ashen"*

**astonish** /ə'stənɪʃ/

C1

affect with wonder

*"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"*

**astonishment** /ə'stənɪʃmənt/

C1

the feeling that accompanies something extremely surprising

*"he looked at me in astonishment"*

**ought** /ɔ:t/

C1

a quantity of no importance

*"it looked like nothing I had ever seen before"*

**bandy** /'bændi/

C1

toss or strike a ball back and forth

*"We banded around these difficult questions"*

**baste** /beɪst/

C1

a loose temporary sewing stitch to hold layers of fabric together

*"baste a roast"*

## C2 words (9)

**belabour**

C2

to work at or to absurd length

*"belabor the obvious"*

**besought**

C2

ask for or request earnestly

*"The prophet bid all people to become good persons"*

**bestir**

C2

become active

*"He finally bestirred himself"*

**bethought**

C2

cause oneself to consider something

*"She bethought her of their predicament"*

**bewail**

C2

regret strongly

*"I deplore this hostile action"*

**boastfully**

C2

in a boastful manner

*"he talked big all evening"*

**brisker** /ˈbrɪskər/

C2

quick and energetic

*"a brisk walk in the park"*

**brushwood**

C2

the wood from bushes or small branches

*"they built a fire of brushwood"*

**craftily**

C2

in an artful manner

*"he craftily arranged to be there when the decision was announced"*

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Read it along with audio — tap any word to hear it and see it highlighted in the sentence:

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/grimms-fairy-tales/vocabulary>